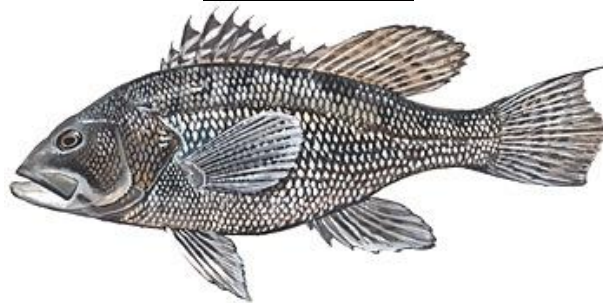


Frequently Asked Questions for Black Sea Bass Pot Endorsement
Transferability Regulations
December 2012



Black Sea bass (*Centropristis striata*)

What is the purpose of the Resubmitted Amendment 18A Action Amendment?

- Amendment 18A to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region was implemented on July 1, 2012, and established a black sea bass pot endorsement program.
- Amendment 18A also contained an action to allow black sea bass pot endorsements to be transferred to individuals or entities that hold or simultaneously obtain a South Atlantic Unlimited Snapper-Grouper Permit.
- The version of Amendment 18A that was submitted for Secretarial approval had the wrong preferred alternative designated and there were discrepancies in the record regarding the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's discussion of the alternatives. Because of these issues NOAA Fisheries did not approve the action to allow black sea bass pot endorsements to be transferred.
- The black sea bass pot endorsement transferability action is addressed in a separate amendment (Resubmitted Amendment 18A Action Amendment).

Who received a black sea bass pot endorsement when Amendment 18A was implemented?

- To qualify for an endorsement, **all** the following conditions had to be met:
 - Own a valid or renewable Unlimited South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper Permit as of the effective date of the final rule implementing Amendment 18A;
 - Average black sea bass landings using pot gear of at least 2,500 pounds whole weight between January 1, 1999, and December 31, 2010; and
 - At least one pound of reported black sea bass commercial landings between January 1, 2008, and December 31, 2010.

Under what conditions may black sea bass pot endorsements be transferred?

- Valid or renewable black sea bass pot endorsements will be transferable upon the effective date of the final rule implementing this action (January 7, 2013).
- Valid and renewable endorsements may only be transferred to any individual or entity holding or simultaneously obtaining a valid South Atlantic Unlimited Snapper-Grouper Permit.
- Valid and renewable endorsements will be transferable, independently from the South Atlantic Unlimited Snapper Grouper Permit.

- All landings of black sea bass using the black sea bass pot endorsement will be associated with the South Atlantic Unlimited Snapper-Grouper Permit with which the endorsement is associated regardless of whether landings occurred before or after the black sea bass pot endorsement was issued.
- Landings of black sea bass using the black sea bass pot endorsement will not be transferred with the endorsement.
- Endorsements will not be automatically renewed when the associated South Atlantic Unlimited Snapper-Grouper Permit is renewed. (Endorsement holders will need to check a box on the application to renew their black sea bass pot endorsement.)

What does black sea bass pot endorsement allow endorsement holders to do?

- With the endorsement, a fisherman is legally allowed to deploy black sea bass pot gear in the South Atlantic for the purposes of harvesting black sea bass.

When will the black sea bass pot endorsement become transferable?

- The final rule implementing the transferability provisions will become effective January 7, 2013.

Where can I find more information about the new regulations for black sea bass and data collection for the recreational sector of the snapper-grouper fishery?

- Contact NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office
By Mail: Southeast Regional Office, c/o Kate Michie
 263 13th Avenue South
 St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
By FAX: (727) 824-5308
By Phone: (727) 824-5305
- The Resubmitted Amendment 18A Action Amendment is available on line at: NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office Web site:
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/SASnapperGrouperHomepage.htm>
 or, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Web site:
<http://www.safmc.net/Library/SnapperGrouper/tabid/415/Default.aspx>